Access
News on WCB products, programs, and services
September 2002

WCB ONLINE

Customize your payment and reporting plan

Online reporting and remitting — available in January 2003 — will give you a range of service and payment options you can tailor to suit your business needs.

This e-business application will allow you to design a payment plan that meets your financial needs, conduct business with us 24/7, and reduce your administrative time.

Like your customers, you deserve choice, convenience, and simplicity and our new tool aims to deliver on all fronts, offering a range of options you can tailor to your business needs. Online reporting and remitting means the end of paper forms, multiple due dates, and unnecessary trips to the mailbox and the bank. Most employers will be able to submit a **single** payroll report every year and choose one of the following payment options:

Prepayment: Make your lump-sum payment at the beginning of the year so you don't have to worry about missing due dates or incurring late fees. This way, you can go about your business knowing that your premiums will be paid on time. Plus, you'll earn a $25 discount on your premiums and qualify for clearance for the entire year, an important benefit for employers who contract services (e.g., construction, courier).

Preauthorized chequing: Do away with the hassle of writing cheques every quarter. With preauthorized chequing, your payments will be made automatically based on your installment plan. It's a fast and easy way to pay your premiums and manage your costs. If you enroll in this payment plan, you'll receive advanced clearance until the next quarter.

Web banking: We're open for business when you are. If you're already well versed in Internet transactions, web banking may be the option for you. Simply go online or talk to your financial institution about setting up an account with the WCB. It's secure, it's convenient, and it allows you to complete all your business transactions at one time, from one place.

Credit card payments: Make your payment and keep track of your premiums on your credit card invoice.

So how can you sign-up for online reporting and remitting? Again, it's quick and easy. This fall, we'll send you the details of the program along with instructions on how to set up a secured account. If you prefer to sign up today, log on to **www.worksafebc.com**, select "Online Services", and you'll be on your way to designing your own payment and reporting plan for 2003.

Young worker initiatives

On average, 42 young workers are hurt on the job every working day in B.C. and five of those workers are permanently injured every week. Besides the obvious physical and emotional tolls, this high rate of injury costs employers tens of thousands of dollars each year.

To help raise awareness and reduce the risks, the WCB is participating in a variety of young worker initiatives, including:

- **Young worker training/orientation award** — We've partnered with the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering to offer a new award for the best training/orientation program for young and new workers. The deadline to submit entries is September 12, 2002. Details are available on our web site at **www.worksafebc.com/news/campaigns/young_workers/default.asp**.
- **Student WorkSafe curriculum** — We've updated and enhanced our Student WorkSafe K-12 program, designed for teachers delivering Career and Personal Planning. The materials feature safety topics and curriculum designed to strengthen students' self-confidence, decision-making skills, and safety awareness. The new version is available on CD-ROM, or online through our web site at **http://youngworker.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Resources-Educators.asp**.

Resources for employers

A variety of booklets, posters, reports, and other resources designed to help you prevent young worker injuries are available on the WCB's web site at **http://youngworker.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Home.asp**.

Printed versions of most materials can be ordered through WCB Publications and Videos. E-mail **pubvid@wcb.bc.ca**, fax **604 279-7406**, or call **604 276-3068** (toll-free in B.C. **1 800 661-2112**, local **3068**).

Rate packages online

Your rate information package will come in the mail later this year, but you won't need to wait until you receive it before you start budgeting for your 2003 premiums.

That's because your complete rate information package will be available online in late fall, allowing you to determine your 2003 premiums before it arrives in the mail.

Your package will include your base rate for 2003, along with any experience rating adjustment. If you've had claims, you'll find a summary of your claim costs, experience rating calculation, and information about the claims we used to calculate your experience rating.

You'll even be able to access packages from as far back as 2000, allowing you to easily track your records and compare your rate from one year to the next.

So visit our web site at **www.worksafebc.com** this fall and select "Your rate information package" to kick-start your budget planning.

Preliminary rates now posted

We've now expanded our Internet rate site to include proposed base rates for 2003.

You can search for your rate by classification unit name or number, get a preview of the cost components and trends in your rate group, and estimate your experience rating for future years with our calculator.

While visiting the site, keep in mind the rates are preliminary and subject to final approval by the WCB Panel of Administrators.

To find out more, visit our web site at **www.worksafebc.com.**

More payment options, fewer reports

If your premiums are less than $1,500 a year, you can look forward to more payment options, prepayment discounts, and fewer forms next year.

As of January 2003, you'll submit only one payroll report per calendar year — instead of the five you've submitted in prior years.

And, if you make your payment online, you can choose one of these three easy payment plans to suit your financial needs:

- Pre-pay for the year and receive a $25 discount on your premiums
- Make four installments during the year
- Make a single payment at the end of the year

Our online payment service is part of our commitment to reducing paper work, saving you time, and simplifying how we do business with you.

Of course, you'll still be able to pay at your financial institution or one of our offices, but we think you'll like the flexibility and ease of remitting online.

Watch for more information about reporting and remitting online later this fall.

Research to advance prevention and treatment

Twelve new research projects have been chosen for funding in this year's research grants competition. A total of $1.2 million was awarded, based on expert scientific review and recommendations by the stakeholder-based Research Advisory Committee (RAC).

Project themes reflect the critical role of research in making B.C. workplaces healthier and safer and improving the cost-effectiveness of the compensation system.

Among the funded projects are studies on:

- Less expensive and less invasive treatments of work-related injuries such as shoulder impingement syndrome and sciatica
- Prevention of slip and fall accidents
- Long-term impacts of injury on young workers

Research is funded with the annual interest on the WCB's Research Reserve. Any funds not used for research are returned to the Accident Fund.

This was the research program's second annual competition, and brings the total number of funded research projects to 22. Results of projects funded last year are expected in 2003 and 2004.

For more information, visit the Research Secretariat's web site at www.worksafebc.com/research/.

Return-to-work program

Most employers agree that they have a moral responsibility to help injured workers return to work, but it also makes good business sense. Besides enhancing labour relations and increasing employee morale, helping an injured worker return to work saves money by reducing your assessment costs, wage-loss benefits paid to the worker, and the costs of training a replacement. In fact, an employer saves $3 for every $1 spent on rehabilitation.

Getting started

Effective return-to-work programs are a team effort. Start by talking to your workers about developing a return-to-work program at your worksite.

We're here to help. Your WCB safety or hygiene officer can provide general information on starting a return-to-work program, or our Vocational Rehabilitation Services Department can work with you to develop individual programs that meet your needs, as well as those of your workers and the union.

Resources

Read more about return-to-work planning in the WCB brochures *Return to Work is Good Business* (for employers), *Return to Work is Good Therapy* (for workers), and *RTW is Good Medicine* (for physicians).

These can be downloaded from the Publications page of our web site at **www.worksafebc.com**. To order printed copies, call **604 276-3068** (toll-free in B.C. at **1 800 661-2112**, local **3068**, fax **604 279-7406**, or e-mail **pubvid@wcb.bc.ca**.

For additional information and assistance, contact the WCB's program manager for disability management at **604 207-1444**, toll-free in B.C. **1 800 661-2112**, local **1444**.

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This newsletter is also available electronically on the WCB web site at **www.worksafebc.com/publications/newsletters/access/**.

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WorkSafe

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